

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 12, 17, 29 and 45 without prejudice or disclaimer, ADD new claims 51-53 and AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for processing physical distribution information, said method comprising:

receiving and registering schedule information from a customer member, corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, ~~the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period;~~

registering information concerning at least one of a family member of said customer member and a lodger of said customer member;

receiving a shipment request from a sender of a package;

determining a delivery form relating to said shipment request with reference to the registered schedule information of the customer member; and

generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with the determined delivery form, when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package, and

~~wherein said receiving and registering schedule information is carried out in advance to receiving a shipment request and asynchronously with said determining, such that said receiving and registering schedule information is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request;~~

wherein said determining comprises referring to the schedule information of at least one of the registered family member of said customer member and the registered lodger of said customer member to make one of the registered family member and the registered lodger receive the package delivered to an address of said customer member, when said customer member to receive the package is unavailable for receiving.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
registering scheduled delivery information in the schedule information of the customer member.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
sending the distributor, information regarding the determined delivery form before starting
to deliver the package.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a delivery completion notice comprising receiving status data from the
distributor.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:
giving the customer member receiving the package a predetermined point to reward a
correct registration of the schedule information of the customer member receiving the package
when the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice indicates the delivery
has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the determined delivery form.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:
giving the customer member receiving the package a predetermined point to reward a
correct registration of the schedule information of the customer member receiving the package
when the determined delivery form indicates that delivery to a home of the customer member
receiving the package and the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice
indicate that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the
determined delivery form.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
receiving and registering information regarding a fixed delivery charge from the
distributor after the package is received by the distributor.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
determined delivery form is determined as that of undeliverable.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
sending the sender of the package a notice comprising information regarding a
deliverable date when the determined delivery form is that of undeliverable.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further

comprising:

giving the customer member receiving the package a predetermined point to reward a correct registration of the schedule information of the customer member receiving the package when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising generating delivery request information addressed to the distributor using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered by the customer member in advance, when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

when a delivery request to a non-member, who is to receive the package, is received from a sender of said package, registering information of the non-member included in the delivery request as provisional customer member information;

sending a customer member registration request to the non-member; and

sending information registered as the provisional customer member information to the non-member when membership registration is requested from the non-member.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said the schedule information is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from the customer member.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said determining of a delivery form comprises sending a schedule input request to the customer member receiving the package when the schedule information of the customer member indicates the schedule information is not fixed.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said determining a delivery form comprises sending the sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method of processing physical distribution information performed by a computer, the method comprising:

receiving schedule information corresponding to availability status information of a customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, from a terminal of the customer member, and registering the schedule information in a storage device, ~~the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period;~~

registering information concerning at least one of a family member of said customer member and a lodger of said customer member;

receiving a shipment request from a terminal of a sender of a package;

determining a delivery form relating to said shipment request with reference to the schedule information of the customer member as stored in the storage device; and

generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with the determined delivery form, when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package, and

~~wherein said receiving schedule information is carried out in advance to receiving a shipment request and asynchronously with said determining, such that said receiving and said registering of the schedule information is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request.~~

wherein said determining comprises referring to the schedule information of at least one of the registered family member of said customer member and the registered lodger of said customer member to make one of the registered family member and the registered lodger receive the package delivered to an address of said customer member, when said customer member to receive the package is unavailable for receiving.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

registering scheduled delivery information in the schedule information of the customer member when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

sending the distributor information regarding the determined delivery form before starting to deliver the package.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a delivery completion notice comprising receiving status data from a computer of the distributor.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:

giving a predetermined point to the customer member when the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the determined delivery form.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:

giving a predetermined point to the receiver when the delivery form determined in said determining indicates that delivery to a home of the customer member receiving the package and the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice indicate that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the determined delivery form.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

receiving and registering information regarding a fixed delivery charge from a computer of the distributor after the package is received by the distributor.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, wherein the determined delivery form is determined as that of undeliverable.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

sending the sender of the package a notice comprising information regarding a deliverable date when the delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

giving a predetermined point to the customer member when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising generating delivery request information addressed to the distributor by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for the customer member in advance, when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package.

29. (CANCELLED)

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

when a delivery request to a non-member, who is to receive the package, is received from a terminal of the sender of a package, registering information of the non-member included in the delivery request as provisional customer member information;

sending a customer member registration request to the non-member; and

sending information registered as the provisional customer member information to a terminal of the non-member when membership registration is requested from the terminal of the non-member.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, wherein the schedule information is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from the terminal of the customer member.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, wherein said determining a delivery form comprises sending a schedule input request to the customer member when the schedule information of the customer member indicates the schedule information is not fixed.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 31, wherein said determining a delivery form comprises sending the sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for processing physical distribution information, comprising:

a schedule register, which receives and registers schedule information from a terminal of a customer member, the schedule information corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to a customer member, ~~the schedule~~

~~information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period; and which registers information concerning at least one of a family member of said customer member and a lodger of said customer member;~~

a receiver that receives a shipment request from a terminal of a sender of a package;
a determining unit, which determines a delivery form relating to said shipment request with reference to the registered schedule information of the customer member; and
a delivery request generator, which generates delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with the determined delivery form when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package, and

~~wherein said schedule register operates in advance to the receiver receiving a shipment request and asynchronously with said determining unit, such that the schedule register receiving and registering schedule information is carried out irrespective of a specific shipment request.~~

wherein the determining unit refers to the schedule information of at least one of the registered family member of said customer member and the registered lodger of said customer member to make one of the registered family member and the registered lodger receive the package delivered to an address of said customer member, when said customer member to receive the package is unavailable for receiving.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a second register, which registers scheduled delivery information in the schedule information of the receiver when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a transmitter, which sends the distributor information regarding the determined delivery before starting to deliver the package.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a receiving unit, which receives a delivery completion notice comprising receiving status data from a computer of the distributor.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 37, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to the customer member receiving the package, when the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the determined delivery form.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 37, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to the customer member receiving the package, when the determined delivery form indicates that delivery to a home of the customer member receiving the package and the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice indicates that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the determined delivery form.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a receiving unit, which receives and registers information regarding a fixed delivery charge from a computer of the distributor after the package is received by the distributor.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein the determined delivery form is determined as that of undeliverable.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a transmitter, which sends the sender a notice comprising information regarding a deliverable date when the determined delivery form is determined as that of undeliverable.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to the customer member receiving the package, when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein, said delivery request generator generates delivery request information addressed to the distributor by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered by the customer member in advance, when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package.

45. (CANCELLED)

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

means for registering information of a non-member, who is to receive the package, included in a delivery request to the non-member as provisional customer member information when the delivery request to the non-member is received from a terminal of a sender of the package;

a transmitter, which sends a customer member registration request to the non-member; and

a transmitter, which sends information registered as the provisional customer member information to a terminal of the non-member when membership registration is requested from the terminal of the non-member.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said schedule register receives the schedule information as a predetermined template selection instruction from the terminal of the customer member.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said determining unit comprises a transmitter, which sends a schedule input request to the customer member when the schedule information of the customer member indicates the schedule information is not fixed.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said determining unit comprises a transmitter, which sends the sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:
receiving schedule information for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period, from a member, ~~the schedule information corresponding to availability status of the member for receiving a package addressed to the member;~~
registering information concerning at least one of a family member of said member and a lodger of said member;

receiving a shipment request from a sender of a package;

determining a delivery form relating to said shipment request based upon the schedule

information received and forwarding the determined delivery form to a sender of the package;
and

generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with the
determined delivery form, and

~~wherein said receiving schedule information is carried out in advance to receiving a
shipment request and asynchronously with said determining, such that said receiving schedule
information is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request.~~wherein said
determining comprises referring to the schedule information of at least one of the registered
family member of said member and the registered lodger of said member to make one of the
registered family member and the registered lodger receive the package delivered to an address
of said member, when said member to receive the package is unavailable for receiving.

51. (NEW) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said receiving and registering
schedule information is carried out in advance to receiving a shipment request and
asynchronously with said determining, such that said receiving and registering schedule
information is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request, and said
schedule information of said customer member comprises availability status information of said
customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period.

52. (NEW) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 18, wherein said
receiving schedule information is carried out in advance to receiving a shipment request and
asynchronously with said determining, such that said receiving and said registering of the
schedule information is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request, and
said schedule information of said customer member comprises availability status information of
said customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period.

53. (NEW) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said schedule register
operates in advance to the receiver receiving a shipment request and asynchronously with said
determining unit, such that the schedule register receiving and registering schedule information
is carried out irrespective of a specific shipment request, and said schedule information of said
customer member comprises availability status information of said customer member for each of
a plurality of days within a predetermined period.